Recent Progress on 2012 SAT for UVOIR Coatings

2014 Mirror Technology/SBIR/STTR Workshop

By

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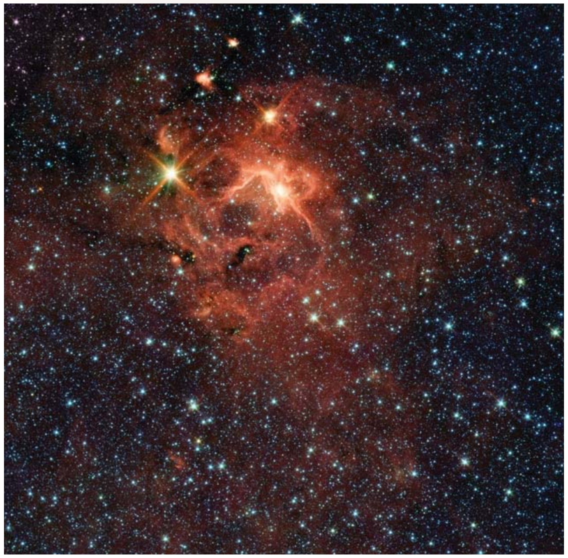
Outline

- Motivation: The need for better performing coatings in the Far-Ultraviolet (FUV)
- Project Objectives
- Methods & Facilities
- Results
- Conclusions & Future Plans
- Acknowledgements

Enhanced FUV Coating Applications



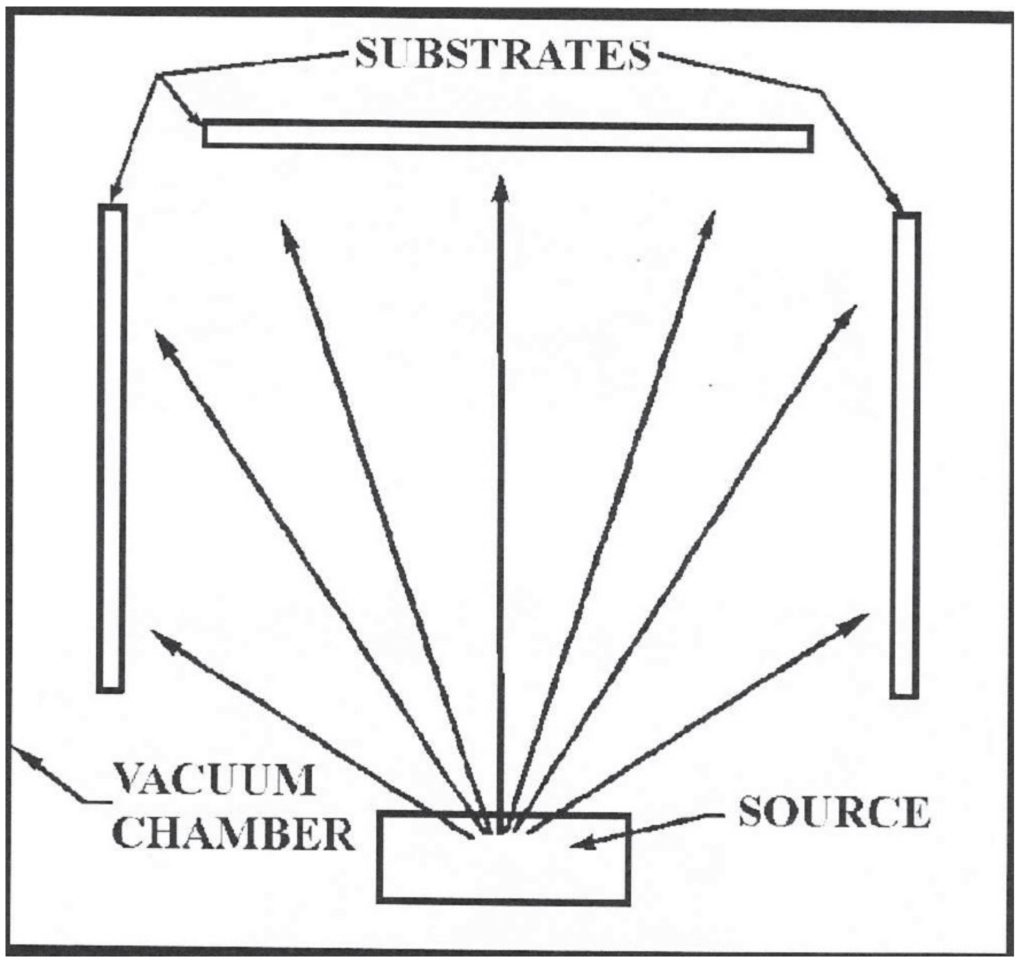
- Distant and faint objects are typically searched for in cosmic origin studies:
  - o Origin of large scale structure
  - o The formation, evolution, and age of galaxies
  - o The origin of stellar and planetary systems
- Astronomical observations in the Far Ultraviolet (FUV) spectral region are some of the more challenging
- Very limited option of reflecting coatings to use at FUV wavelengths:
  - o Modest reflectivity offered by those coatings
  - o Al+MgF_2 [typically 82% at Lyman-alpha, 1216 Å) that are used on reflecting surfaces of FUV instrumentation
- Improved reflective coatings for optics at FUV could yield dramatically more sensitive instruments .
- Permit more instrument design freedom

Project Objectives

- Develop coating deposition processes to improve performance in Far Ultraviolet (FUV)
- Three main objectives:
  - o Use a reactive Ion Beam Sputtering process to make better MgF_2 films
  - o Study low-absorption materials for dielectric coatings in FUV spectral region
  - o Improved FUV reflectance performance of aluminum mirrors over-coated with MgF_2 and LiF

o 3-year performance period (Started in FY12)

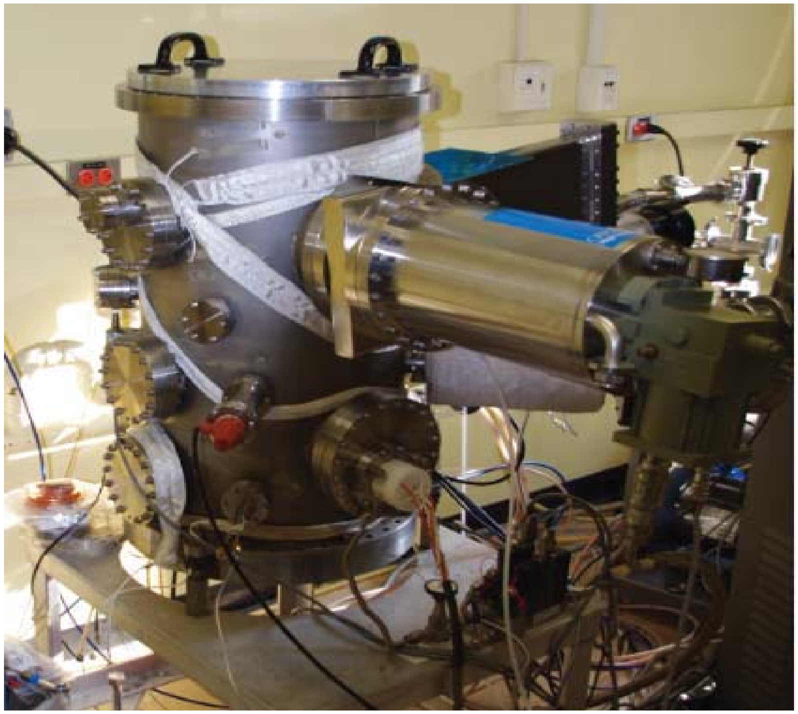
Physical Vapor Deposition



GSFC Coating Facilities

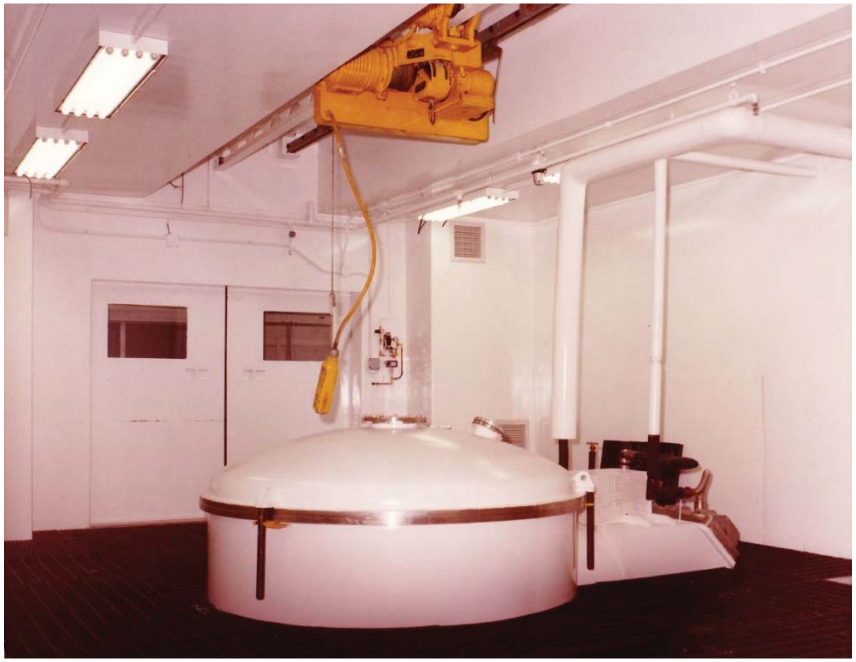
- PVD, IBS, and RF Magnetron Sputtering deposition chambers
- Coatings produced: Al, MgF2, SiO_x, LiF, Al_2O_3, Ag, Cr, Y_2O_3

PVD coating chamber (1-meter)



Reactive Ion Beam Sputtering

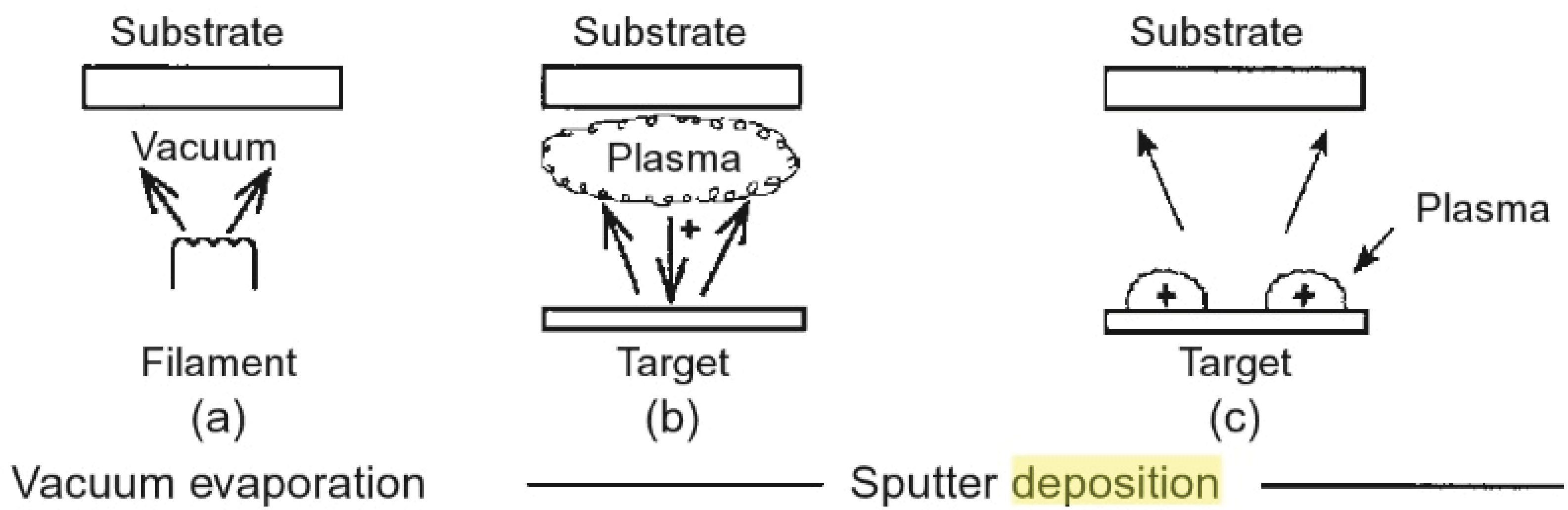
2-Meter Chamber



Chamber top Cover with mirror substrate installed

Missions supported: Astronomical Observatory (OAO) & Ultraviolet Explorer (IUE)
FUSE, HST (COSTAR, GHRS & COS)

Coating Deposition Processes



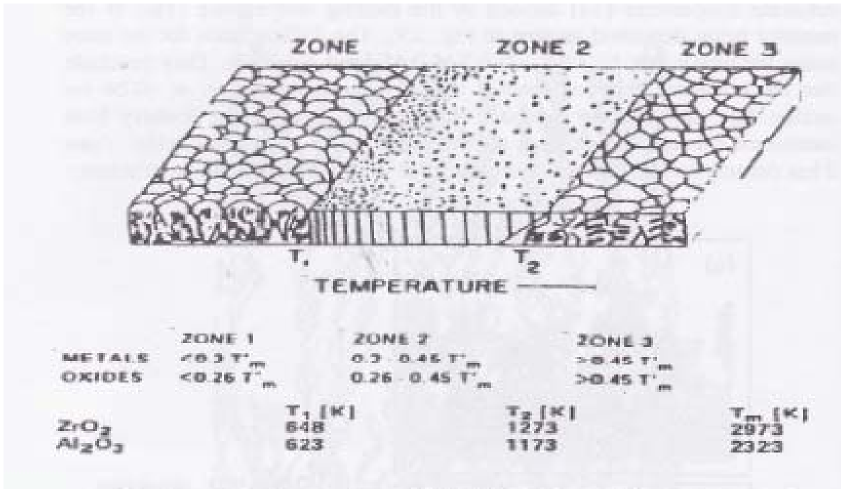
PVD

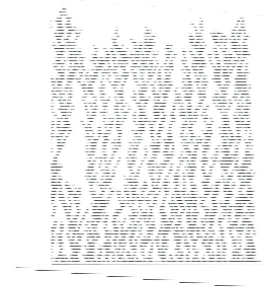
- Material is heated until it reaches vapor form
- Material is deposited on the substrate where it condenses
- Typical deposition rates are 10-100 Å/Sec.

Sputtering

- Non-thermal evaporation process
- Atoms from a target are ejected by momentum transfer from energetic atom-size particles
- Particles are energized by an ion gun
- Deposition rates are much lower than PVD 1-5 Å/Sec.

Model of Film Growth vs. Temperature





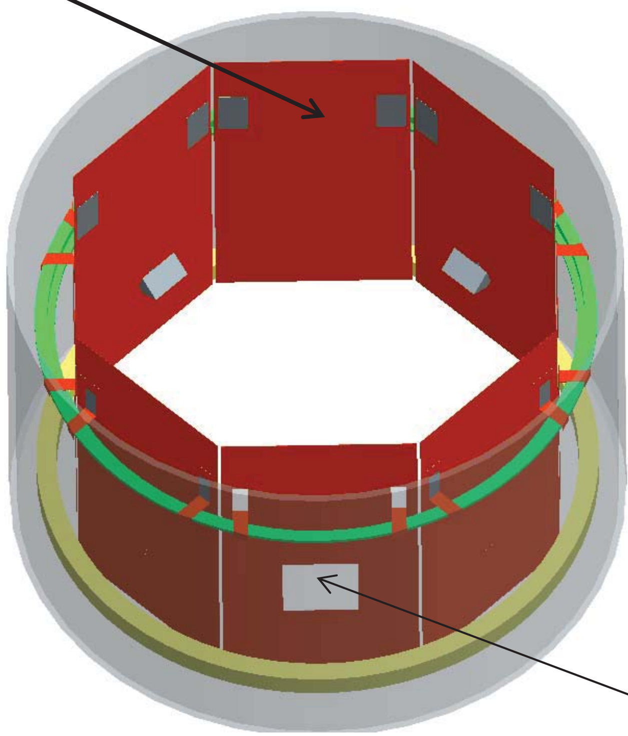
Computer simulation growth process (Karl Gunther)

- Zone model of film growth vs. substrate temperature (After Movchan & Denchishin (1969))
- Three zones as function of Ts/Tm
  - Zone 1 (< 0.25): Feathery “frost” with columnar growth separated by many voids
  - Zone 2 (0.25 to 0.45): Densely packed columns
  - Zone 3 (> 0.45): Polycrystalline structure

2-meter Chamber Heat Panel Concept

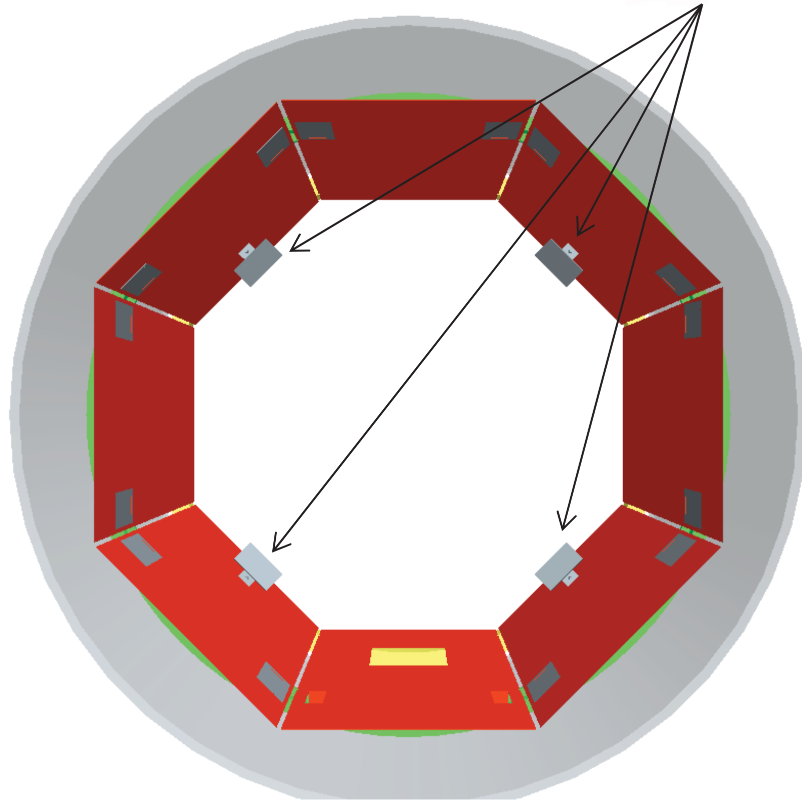
- Design and fabrication of internal heat shields for 2-meter Chamber.
- Optimized coating parameter for high FUV reflectance of a distribution of slides in center and out to a ~0.5 meter radius.
- These wall panels were made out of stainless steel and were designed to easily interface with the existing internal configuration of the chamber.

8 PANELS

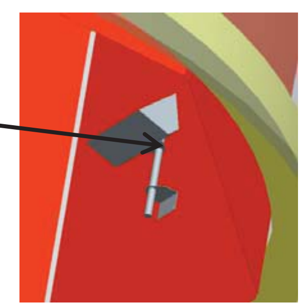


SINGLE VIEWPORT 10” X 10” SQUARE

4X LIGHT MOUNTS

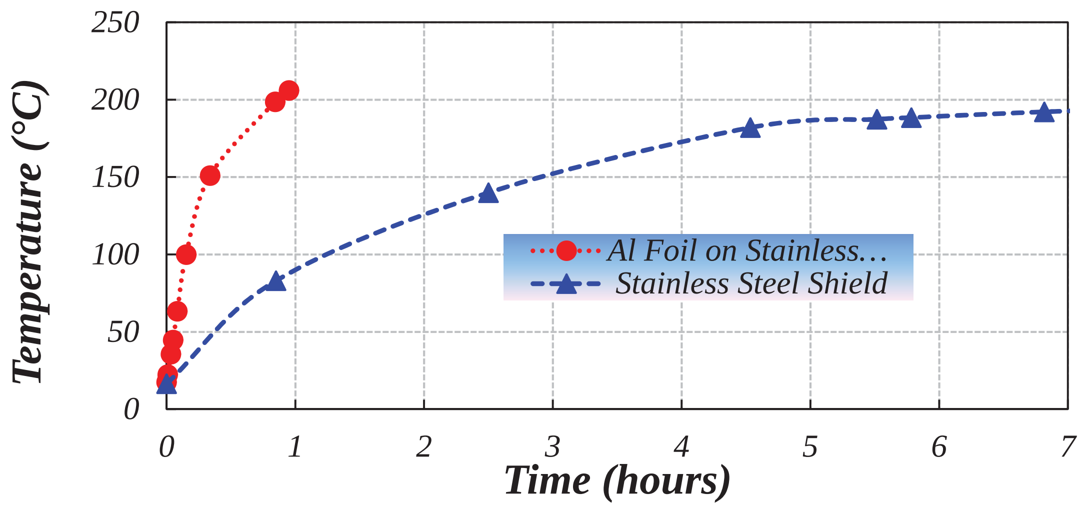


ADJUSTABLE LIGHT MOUNT

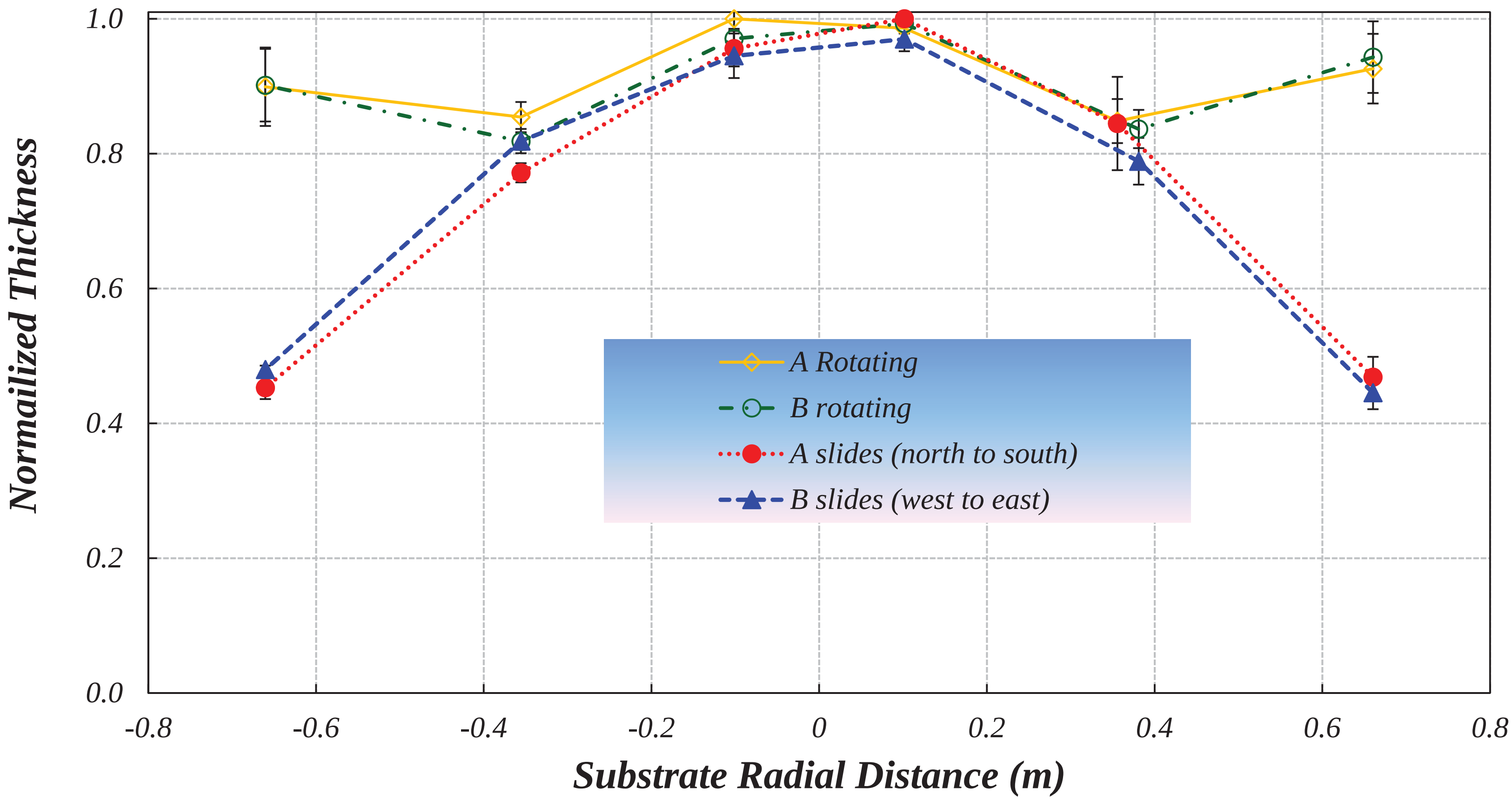


2-meter Chamber Heater Check Out Process

- Earlier test of heaters showed maximum temperature reached was only 100 ° C after 5 hours
- Doubled lamp power output from 500 W to 1000 W each (4000 W total)
- Additional testing yielded a maximum temperature of 130 ° C
- Further testing done after wrapping heat shield panels with **aluminum foil** provide for a much quicker raise in temperature, reaching 220 ° C in less than 1 hour



Thickness Uniformity

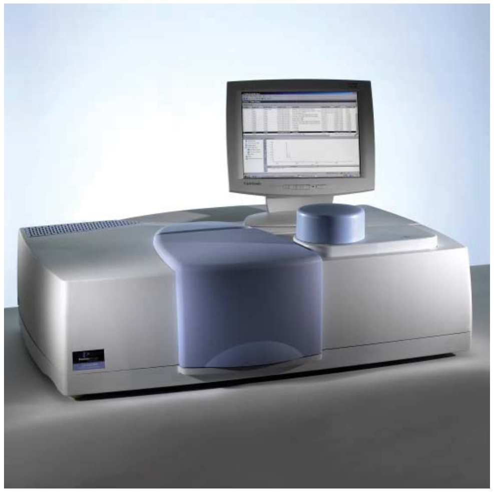


Optical Characterization: T(λ), R(λ)

ACTON VUV Spectrometer

- Spectral range: 30-300 nm
- Source: Windowless H2-purged source (H2 emission lines between 90 nm and 160 nm and a continuum at higher
- Detector: PMT with fluorescence coating

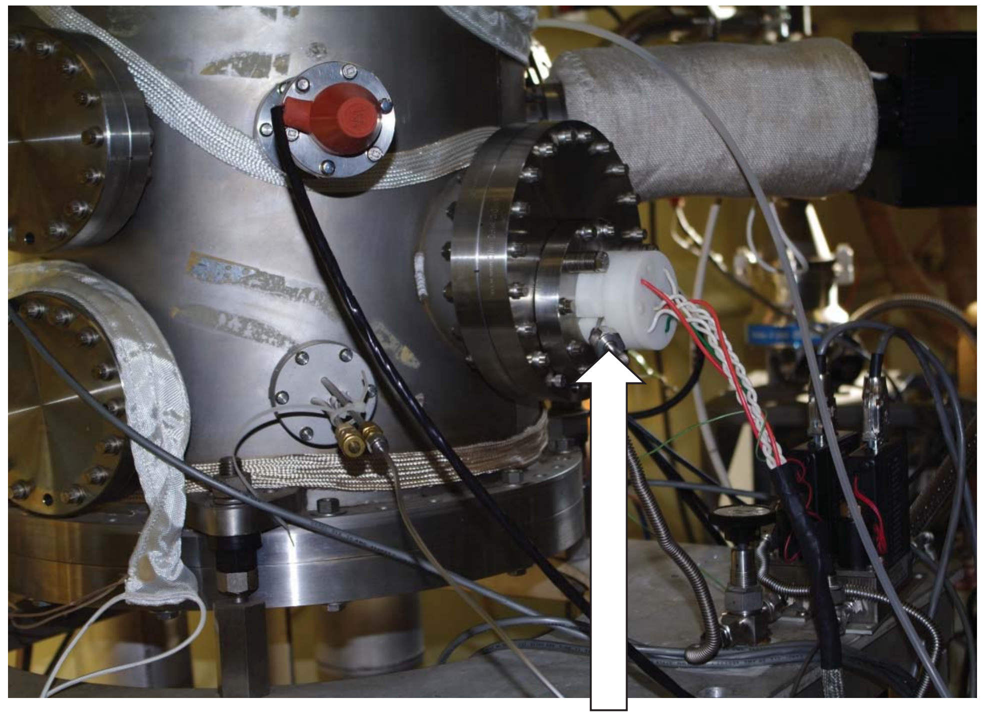
Perkin Elmer Lambda 950



Spectral range: 190-2500 nm
Universal Reflectance Accessory

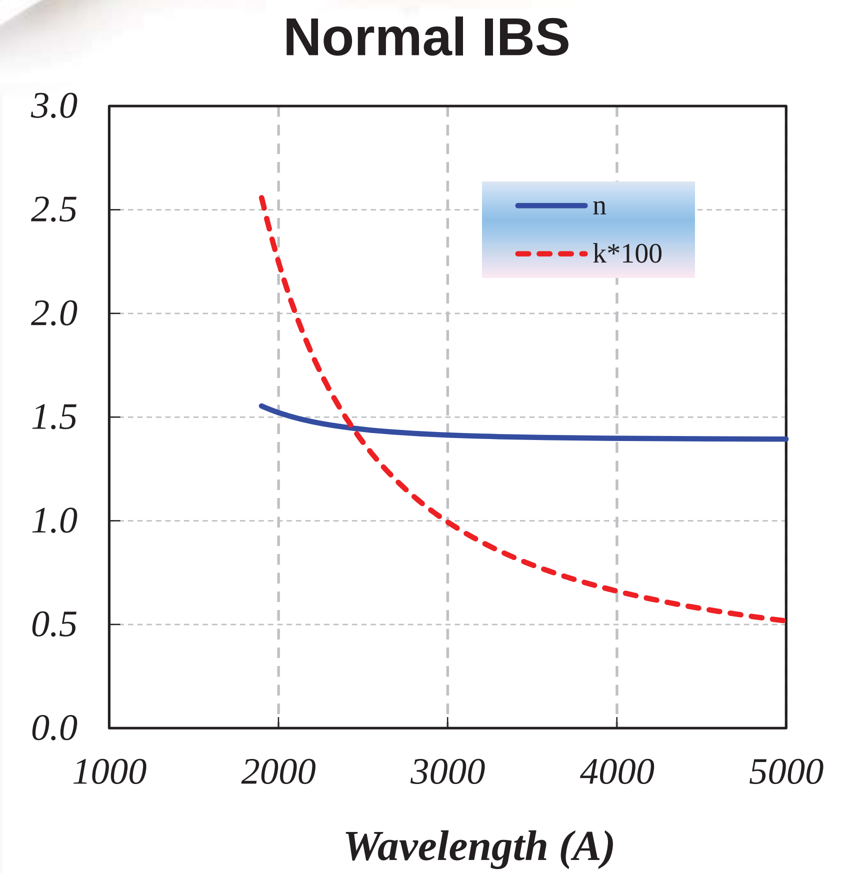
Ion Beam Sputtering Coating Chamber

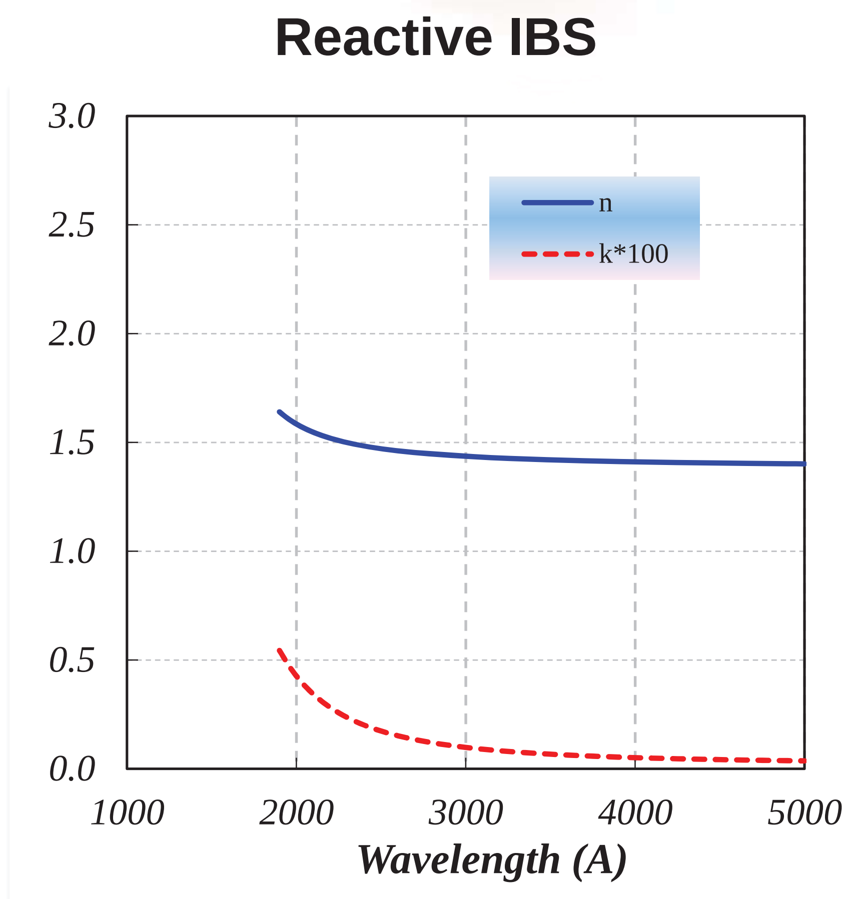
- Upgrade chamber with a two-gas flow controller system.
- Krypton gas to be used in the ion-beam sputtering depositions.
- Freon (CF4) used as reactive gas to replenish the targets (MgF2) stoichiometry.
- Added heaters to the chamber: To improve microcrystalline film properties.



Reactive gas intake

Comparison MgF2 Depositions in IBS Chamber

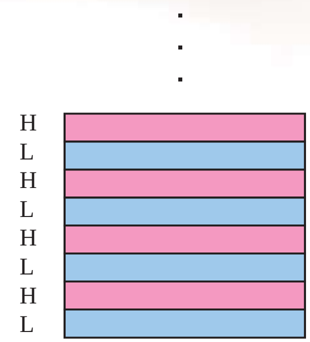




- Characterization of MgF2 films produced with the IBS process were not as good as conventional PVD results. As a result not coating runs of LiF films using reactive IBS were attempted
- Problem could be traced to at degradation of cathode filament due to reactive fluoride containing gas (Freon) in chamber
- Solution will be to procure an ion gun source without a filament:
  - Cost is over $100k
  - Efforts were not pursued due to budget constraints

FUV Reflecting Dielectric

- **Choose a high-index (H) and low-index (L) pair combination**
- **Form a pair of (H,L) layers with thicknesses equal to a Quarter-Wave Optical thickness at the design wavelength.**
- **Repeat the stack above until desired reflectance is achieved.**

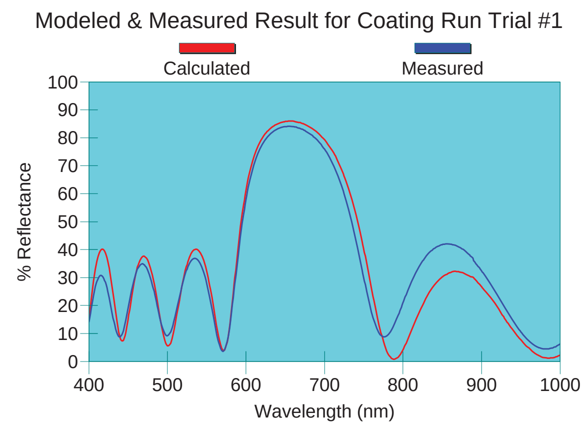


Note: The larger the difference between (n_H-n_L) the better contrast and fewer layers needed to achieve a given R

Options for dielectric materials:

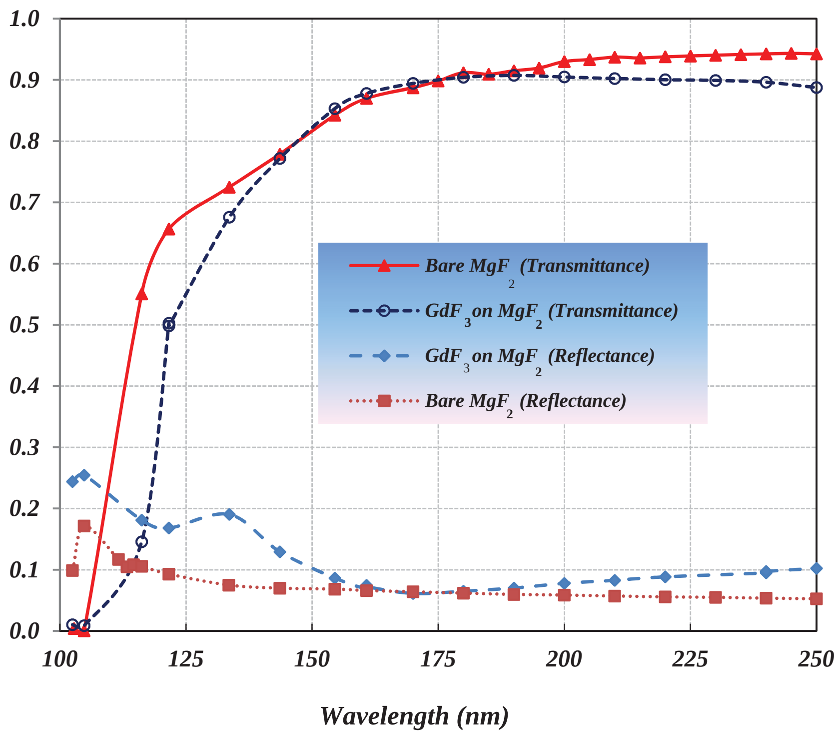
L: MgF_2 (n ~ 1.45)

H: GdF_3; LuF_3 (n ~ ?)

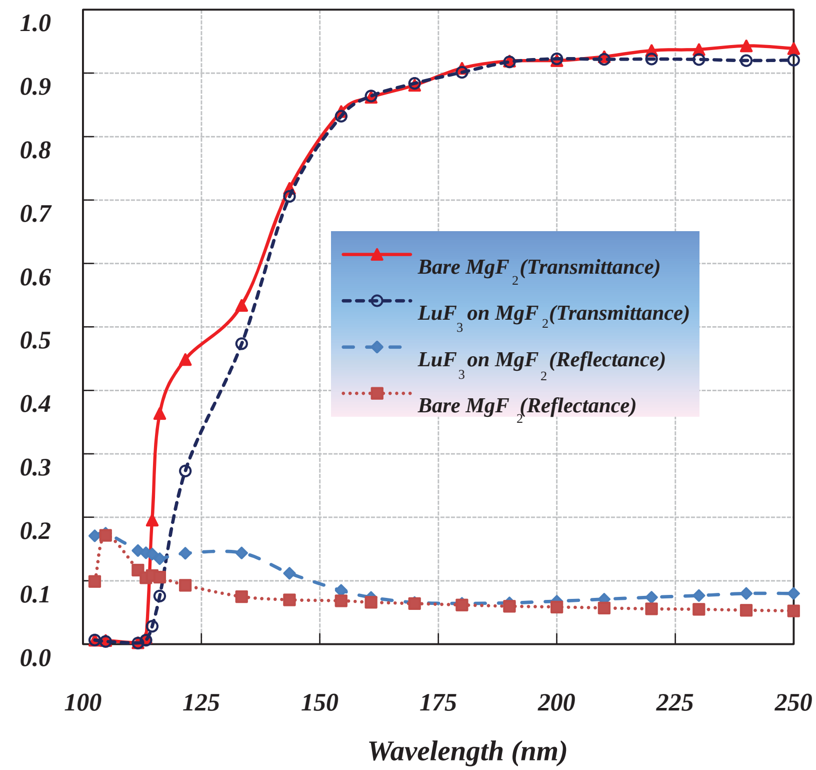


GdF_3 and LuF_3 Films Characterization

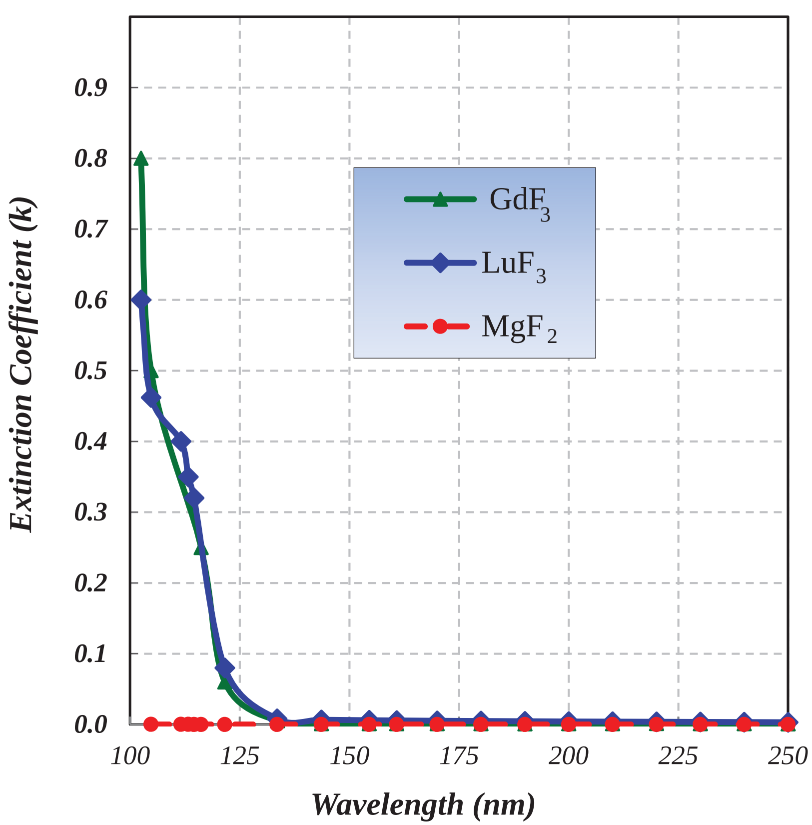
- 430 A GdF3 film on MgF2 substrate

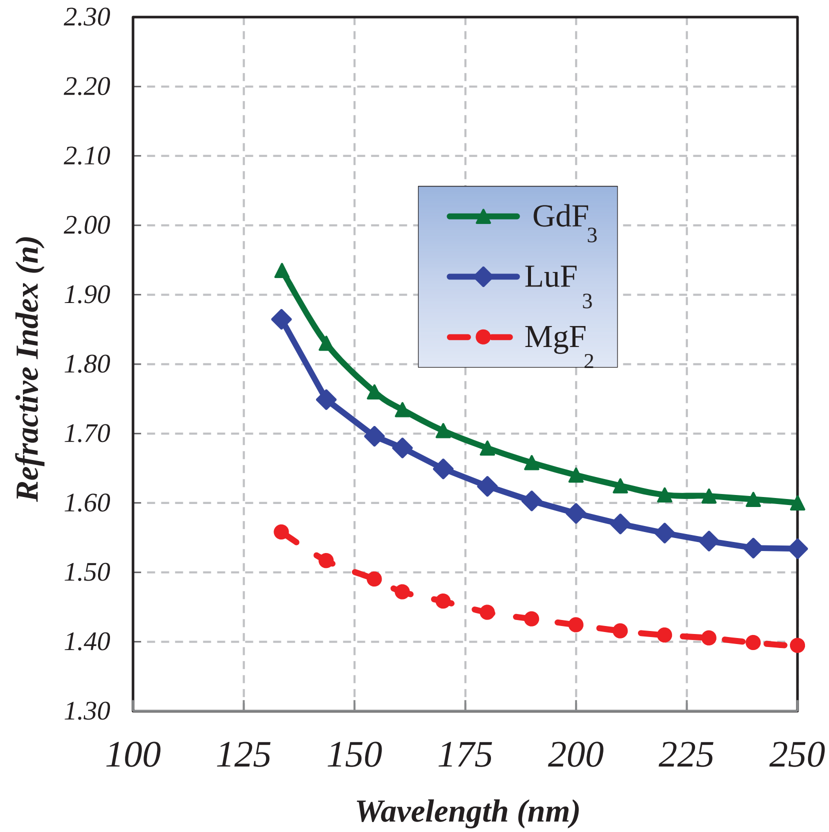


- 435 A LuF3 film on MgF2 substrate



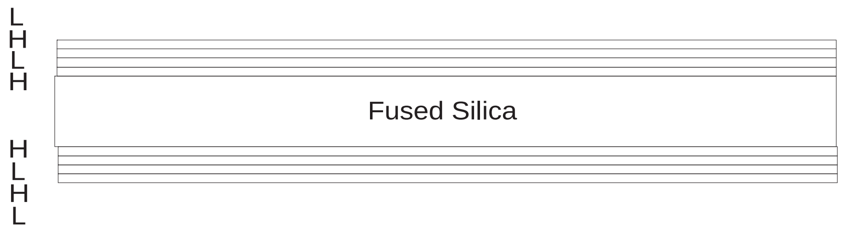
GdF_3 and LuF_3 Films Optical Constants



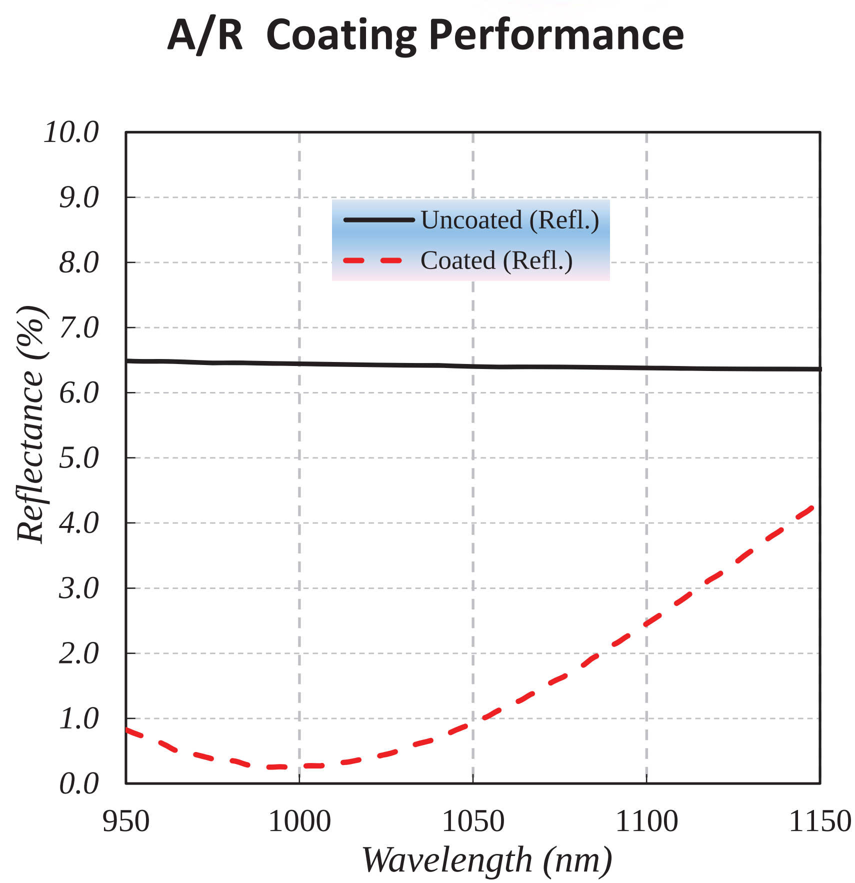


A/R Coating Example

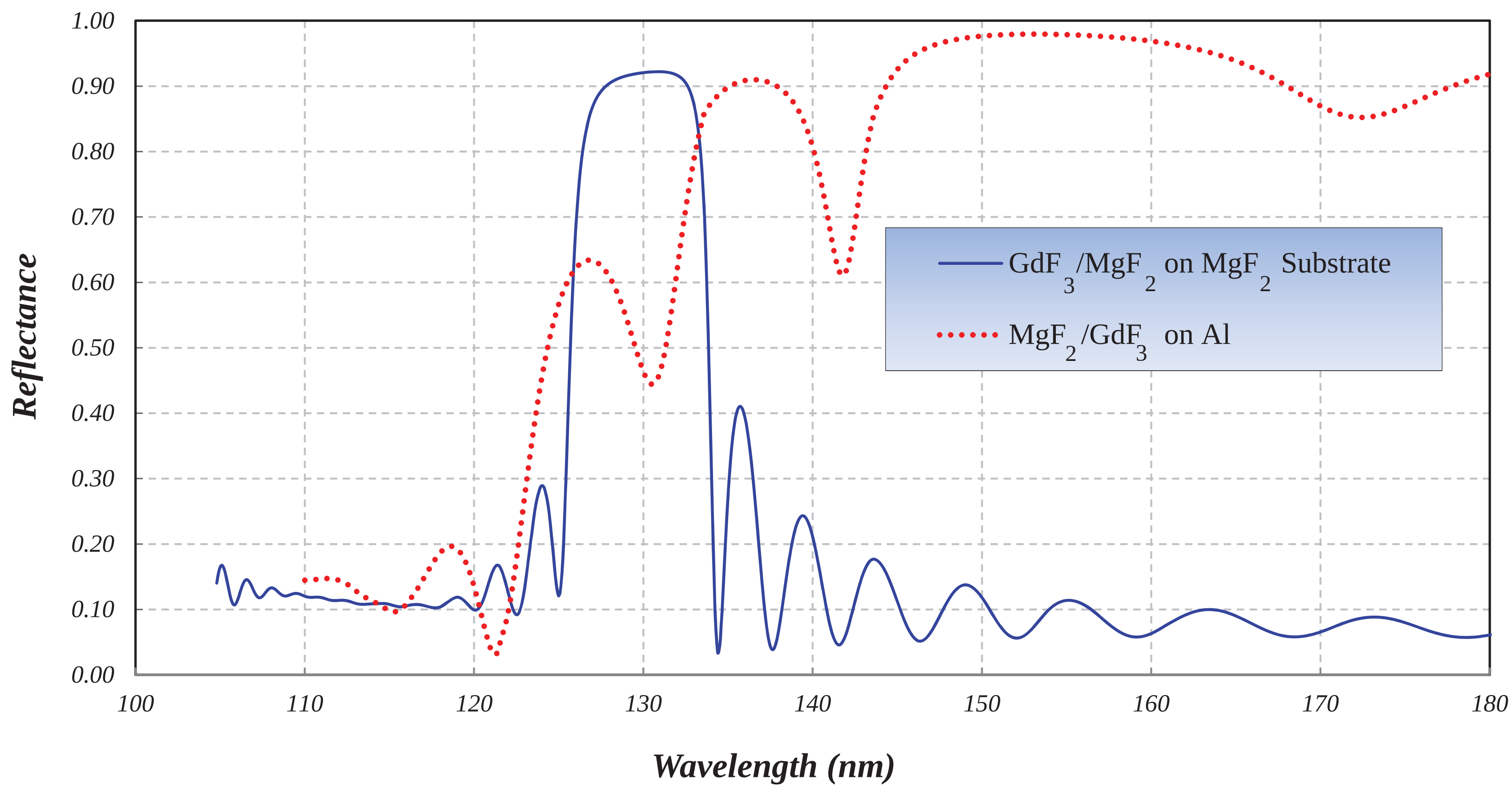
- •A/R to suppress FS reflection losses near 1000 nm
- •Design includes 2 layer pairs of GdF_3(H)/MgF_2(L) (181 and 200 nm respectively) on both sides



Performance is 0.25% near 1000 nm



FUV Reflector

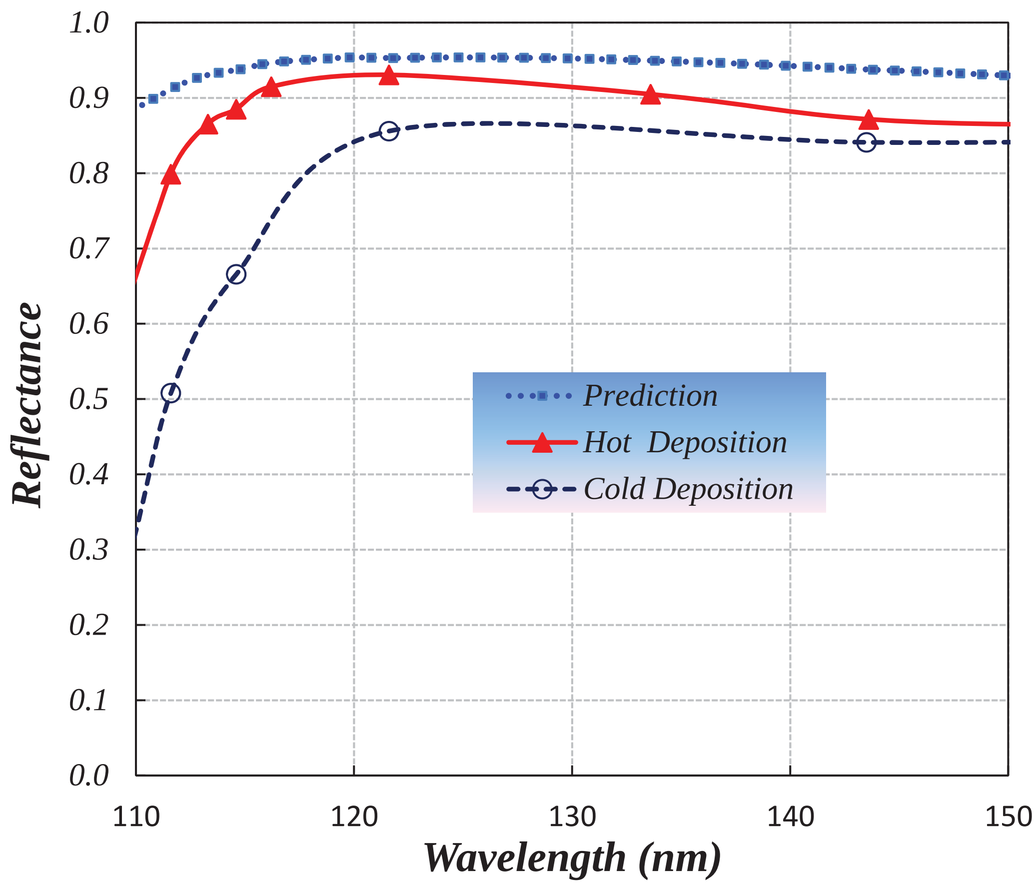


Design 1: 5 pairs MgF_2/GdF_3 on Al layer

Design 2: 10 pairs MgF_2/GdF_3 on MgF_2 substrate

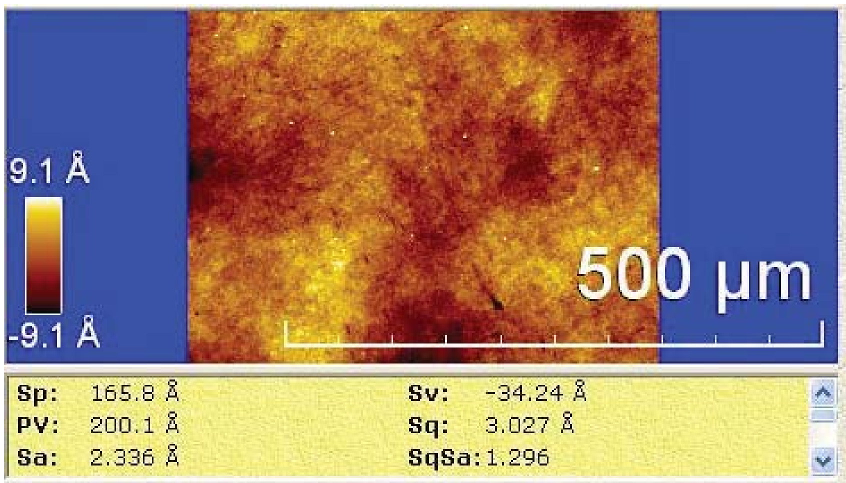
Al+MgF_2 Mirror FUV Performance

- Predicted vs. measured reflectance of bare Al and Al+MgF_2 reflectance (Al: 50.0 nm; MgF2: 25.0nm)
- Enhanced performance is obtained by heating (~220 °C) substrate during MgF2 deposition
- Reflectance is > 80% even at 115.0 nm



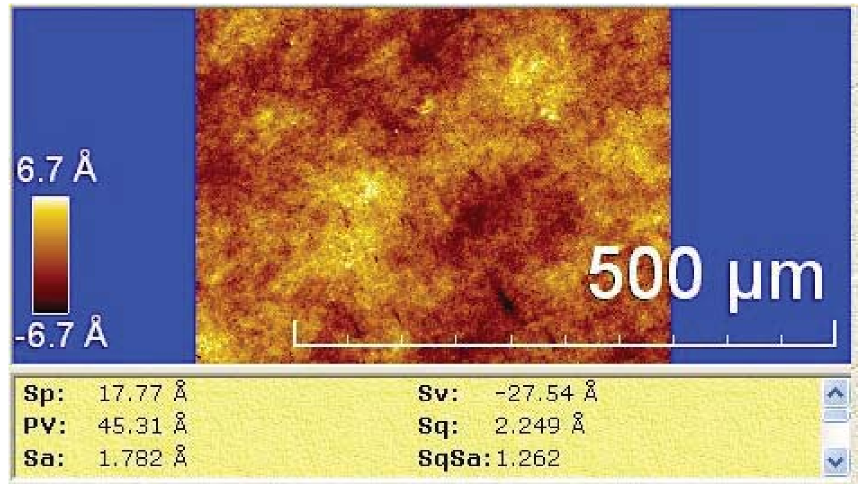
Micro-roughness Al+MgF2 Coatings

Standard Deposition



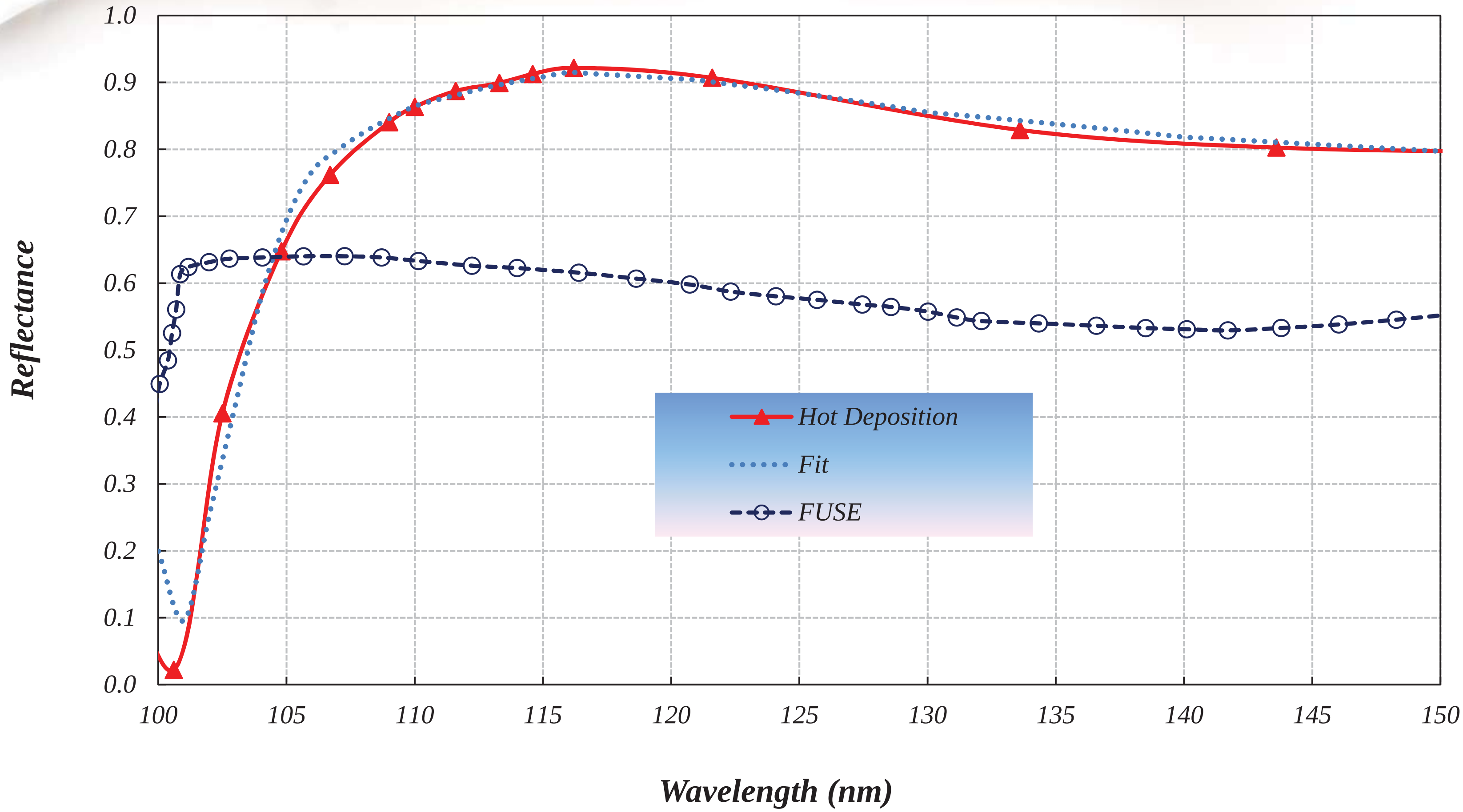
AM2 13 01C	x20 mag/ angstroms		
		PV (Å)	Sq (Å)
top left		75.58	6.146
top right		101.2	5.196
center		128	4.021
bottom left		200.1	3.027
bottom right		100	3.282
average		120.97	**4.3344**

Hot Deposition



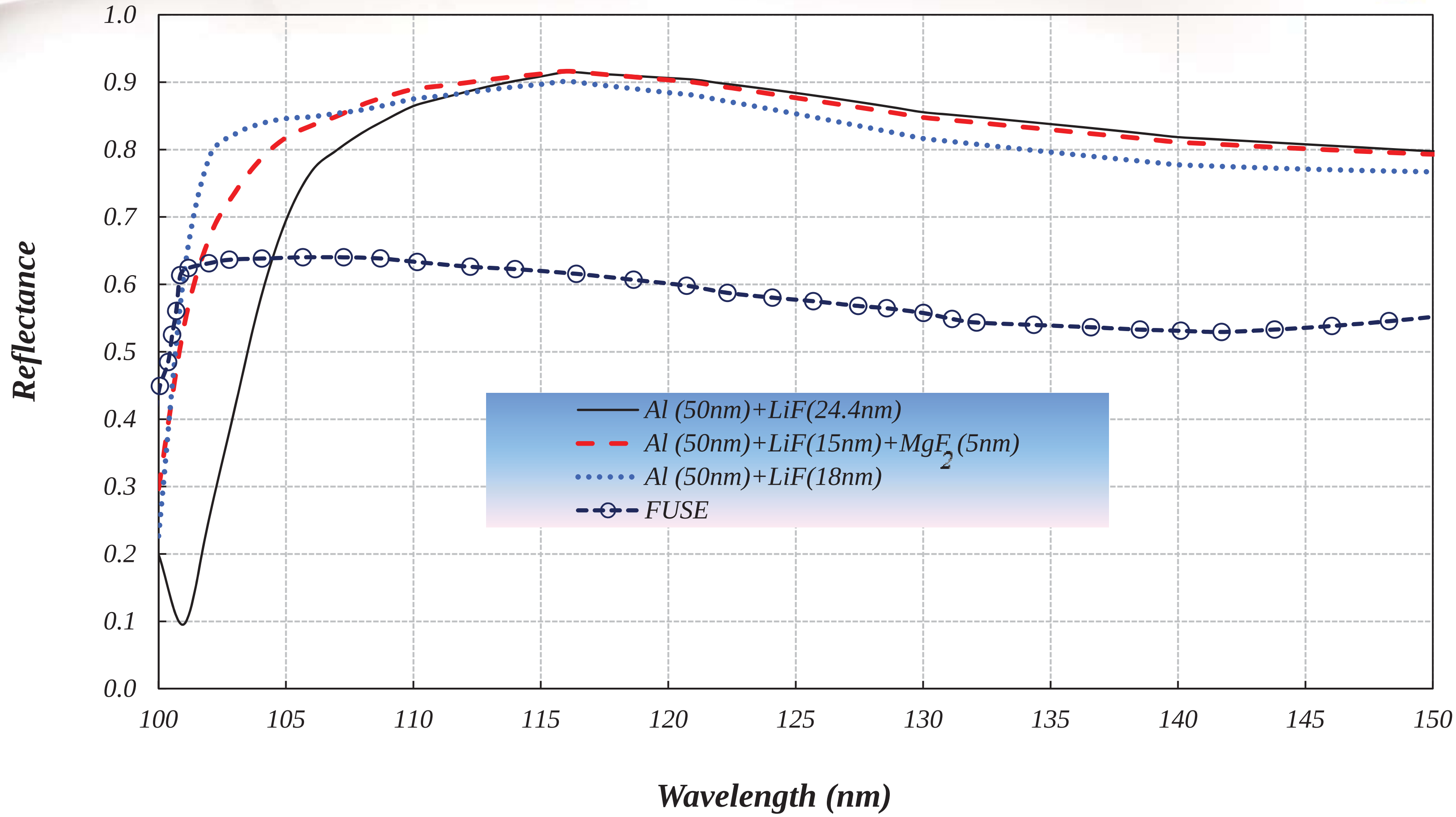
AMCT 13 01A	x20 mag/ angstroms		
		PV (Å)	Sq (Å)
top left		45.31	2.249
top right		40.19	2.331
center		50.96	3.304
bottom left		44.39	2.923
bottom right		50.85	3.854
average		46.34	**2.9322**

Al+LiF Mirror FUV Performance



Recipe: Al (43nm, ambient)+LiF(8nm, ambient)+LiF(16.4nm, 250° C)
R_{ave}(100-150nm): 59% (FUSE) 75% (Hot)

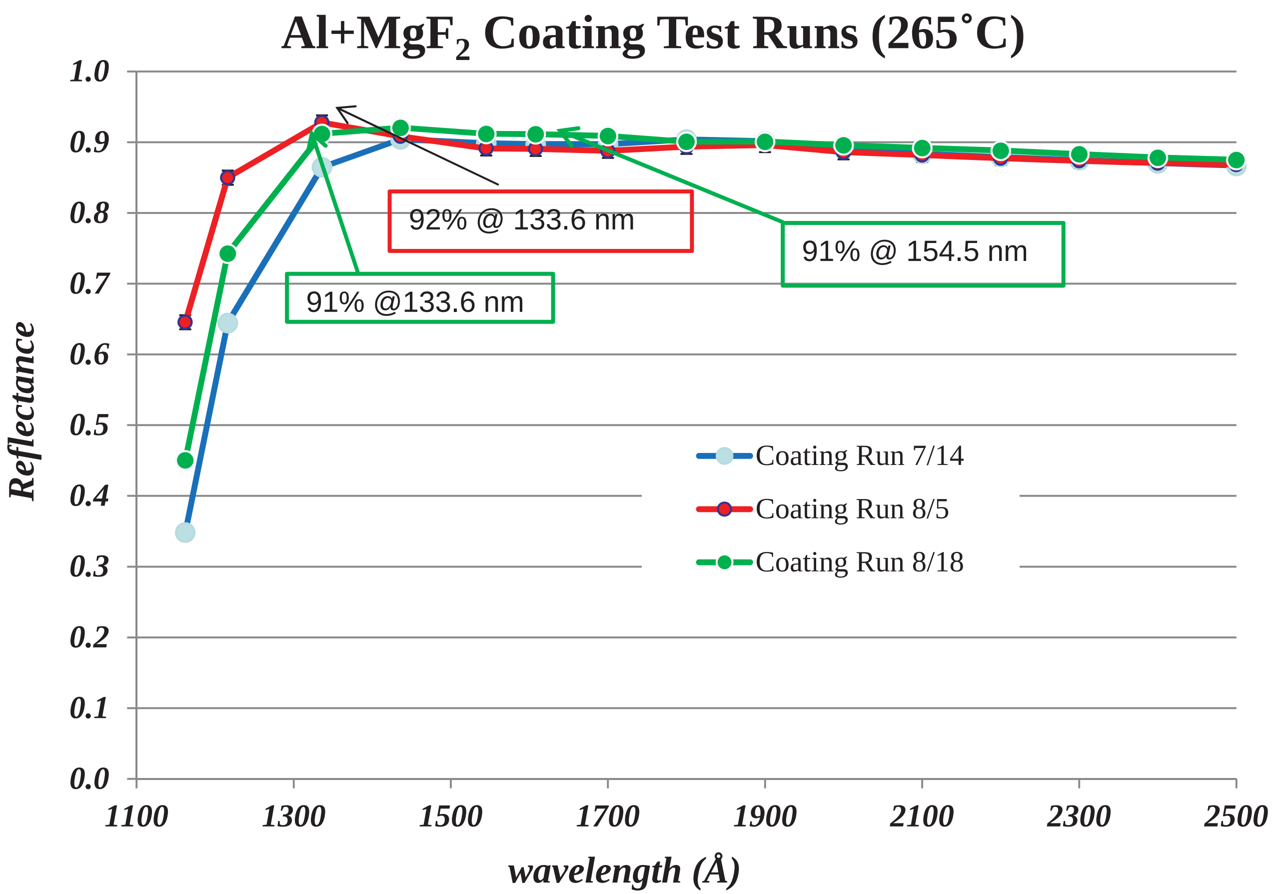
Al+LiF Mirror FUV Performance Cont..

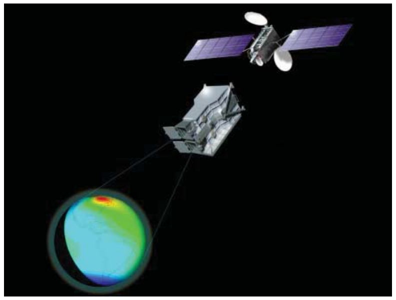


Dual bowl fixture

ICON/GOLD Coating Tasks

- ICON (Ionospheric Connection explorer): Study Earth's low-orbit ionosphere
- GOLD (Global-scale Observations of the Limb and Disk) : Imager to map Earth's thermosphere & ionosphere





Conclusions and Future Plans

- Reported gains in FUV reflectivity of Al+MgF_2 and Al+LiF mirrors by employing a 3-step process during PVD coating deposition of these materials.
- Successful demonstration of enhancement in FUV reflectance using a large 2-meter chamber.
- Characterization of lanthanide tri-fluoride material candidates to determine their FUV transparency for development of dielectric coatings.
- On-going task of depositing Al(50)+LiF(15nm)+MgF_2(5nm)
- Produce FUV reflector using dielectric (MgF_2/GdF_3) pairs
- GSFC Internal Research & Development to setup pilot program to study synthesis of MgF_2 films using ALD process

Acknowledgement

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Charles Bowers